

## 1. Project Description

### A. Statement of GO Activity

For the Jawbone Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) / Dove Springs open area, and Rand Mountains trail networks, on going trail maintenance is urgently important due to the extraordinary number of users experienced by these trails. As trails become "whooped out" or develop washboards or washouts, users seeking to avoid the rough spots gradually ride to the outside resulting in unnecessarily wide trails. Poor trail conditions can also result in users creating their own paths of travel outside of the designated route network, which endangers the sensitive resources. Regular and on going trail maintenance is essential to preserving a safe and environmentally compatible network of designated routes of travel.

Trails that are groomed attract a greater number of motorized users than those that are not groomed. Through regular maintenance, trails with deep "whoops" and washboards will be smoothed, and trails that develop rain ruts will be repaired. Even normal wear and tear would be corrected periodically to prevent trails from being widened by users.

There are three tasks that make up this specific project that consist of the following:

Task #1: The FOJ will focus on the maintaining of larger access roads and trails in coordination with the Land Manager. Our tasks will utilize equipment i.e. grader and tractor gang box best suited for use on wider roads and will leave other smaller more narrow type repairs/maintenance to the BLM using much smaller equipment i.e. a SWECO and John Deer dozer.

Under a regular maintenance schedule we can achieve better user satisfaction with the designated trail network, and thereby better protect the areas resources. To support the rigorous maintenance requirements of these trails, it is important that we hire 2 full time heavy equipment operators, which are included as part of this project application.

This project overall enhances the protection for sensitive areas by identifying for the general public the appropriate access network to avoid impacts.

The primary purpose of this task is to encourage on-trail use and discourage off-trail travel.

Task #2: The FOJ are asking for funding to use contract portable toilets to be placed on the Randsburg open areas to support up to five major national holiday weekends per year, there will be a two standard toilet, one handicap with wash station made available to the public during those times. These are necessary due to the extreme large numbers of visitors to these areas.

Task #3: A FOJ Map #8 is being proposed to replenish our stock, but will also reflect the changes that have occurred since its last printing, to include fenced in areas.

### B. Relation of Proposed Project to OHV Recreation

The route network was carefully planned to reduce and avoid impacts to sensitive natural and cultural areas. The network was created in part by using a decision tree that evaluated the need for access versus the potential for negative impacts. Access was generally provided to these locations on a limited basis as the decision tree favored protection of sensitive resources. This project enhances the protection for sensitive areas by identifying for the general public the appropriate access network to avoid impacts.

The OHV Open Area is clearly separated from all highway uses by existing and maintained fences, and there are no highway crossings within the project area. With more users staying on maintained trails, we can expect fewer illegal highway crossings.

Mojave Desert communities that enjoy this desert route connectivity are California City, Randsburg, Johannesburg, Red

Mountain, and Kelso Valley. These linkages provide important services for users, such as food and fuel, and help visitors and local businesses connect with each other.

This project will assist in maintaining areas which can see as many as 900,000 visitor use days per year

### **C. Size of the Project**

The Jawbone-Butterbrecht ACEC consist of approximately 211,000 acres (153,000 BLM and 58,000 private properties), while the Rands area covers some 65,000 acres/Dove Springs, These areas account for about 346 miles of active/legal OHV trail usage.

This area consists of joint use agreements with the BLM, and Private sector.

### **D. Location and description of OHV opportunities**

The Jawbone Canyon OHV Open Area provides exceptional connectivity to several state, regional and national trail systems, such as the State Motorized Trail System and the important Pacific Crest Trail for non-motorized use. Other trail systems that connect to this network are those of: Sequoia National Forest; the West Mojave Plan, as administered by the Ridgecrest Field Office of the BLM, and including the El Paso Mountains and Rand Mountains; Red Rock Canyon State Park; and OHV Open Areas including Jawbone Canyon, Dove Springs, and Spangler Hills.

Jawbone Canyon Road, which bisects the OHV Open Area, is East Kern County's most significant gateway to back country recreation. This area is used by many members of the public to access a wide variety of recreational activities, including: hiking, hunting, bird watching, equestrian use, rock hounding, boating at Lake Isabella, painting and other artistris, and history seeking.

Mojave Desert communities that enjoy this connectivity are California City, Randsburg, Johannesburg, Red Mountain, and Kelso Valley. Also, mountain communities such as Lake Isabella and Havilah are served by the trail linkages from these areas. These linkages provide important services for users, such as food and fuel, and help visitors and local businesses connect with each other.

The OHV Open Area is clearly separated from all highway uses by existing and maintained fences, and there are no highway crossings within the project area. With more users staying on maintained trails, we can expect fewer illegal highway crossings.

Some of the major access points served by these networks are: US Highway 395 between Kramer Junction and Ridgecrest; State Highway 178 (designated the "178 Corridor –Palace to the Pinnacles" by Kern County) along Walker Pass;

Highway 58 serving California City; State Highway 14 between Jawbone Canyon and Walker Pass; the Red Rock-Randsburg and the Garlock roads connecting Jawbone Canyon to the tri-city area of Randsburg, Johannesburg and Red Mountain;

the Red Mountain-Trona Road that provides numerous access points within the Spangler OHV Open Area; and

California City Boulevard and the Twenty Mule Team Parkway provides interior access between Mojave and Randsburg.

There are also over 20 major maintained dirt roads within these networks including the Red Rock-Inyokern Road, Kelso Valley Road, the Savoy Road, the Randsburg-Mojave Road, and the especially well traveled Jawbone Canyon Road.

## **2. Rerouting Requirements**

### **Rerouting**

- (a) Does your project involve rerouting of any roads and trails?  Yes  No

If response to question (a) is 'Yes', a Project timeline, conceptual drawings and site plans are required (See 'Attachments' tab at the top of the screen)

If response to question (a) is 'No', skip details related to rerouting

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**1. Project Timeline (Required if project includes necessary rerouting)**

**2. Conceptual Drawings and Site Plans (Required if project includes necessary rerouting)**

Attachments:

[Project Area to be worked](#)

**3 Project-Specific Maps**

Attachments:

[Area Trail Map](#)

[Overview of Land Management area](#)

[Road Grading helps](#)

[Sample Map Design for FOJ revised Maps task #3](#)

**4. Optional Project-Specific Application Documents**

Attachments:

[Trail routine care/Mx](#)

[Typical illegal trails though out Project area](#)

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<b>APPLICANT NAME :</b>	Friends of Jawbone		
<b>PROJECT TITLE :</b>	Ground Operations - Trail Maintenance/Annual Sustainment	<b>PROJECT NUMBER (Division use only) :</b>	
<b>PROJECT TYPE :</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition <input type="checkbox"/> Development <input type="checkbox"/> Education & Safety <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground Operations <input type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement <input type="checkbox"/> Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration		
<b>PROJECT DESCRIPTION :</b>	<p>For the Jawbone Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) / Dove Springs open area, and Rand Mountains trail networks, on going trail maintenance is urgently important due to the extraordinary number of users experienced by these trails. As trails become "whooped out" or develop washboards or washouts, users seeking to avoid the rough spots gradually ride to the outside resulting in unnecessarily wide trails. Poor trail conditions can also result in users creating their own paths of travel outside of the designated route network, which endangers the sensitive resources. Regular and on going trail maintenance is essential to preserving a safe and environmentally compatible network of designated routes of travel.</p> <p>Trails that are groomed attract a greater number of motorized users than those that are not groomed. Through regular maintenance, trails with deep "whoops" and washboards will be smoothed, and trails that develop rain ruts will be repaired. Even normal wear and tear would be corrected periodically to prevent trails from being widened by users.</p> <p>There are three tasks that make up this specific project that consist of the following:</p> <p>Task #1: The FOJ will focus on the maintaining of larger access roads and trails in coordination with the Land Manager. Our tasks will utilize equipment i.e. grader and tractor gang box best suited for use on wider roads and will leave other smaller more narrow type repairs/maintenance to the BLM using much smaller equipment i.e. a SWECO and John Deer dozer.</p> <p>Under a regular maintenance schedule we can achieve better user satisfaction with the designated trail network, and thereby better protect the areas resources. To support the rigorous maintenance requirements of these trails, it is important that we hire 2 full time heavy equipment operators, which are included as part of this project application.</p> <p>This project overall enhances the protection for sensitive areas by identifying for the general public the appropriate access network to avoid impacts.</p> <p>The primary purpose of this task is to encourage on-trail use and discourage off-trail travel.</p> <p>Task #2: The FOJ are asking for funding to use contract portable toilets to be placed on the Randsburg open areas to support up to five major national holiday weekends per year, there will be a two standard toilet, one handicap with wash station made available to the public during those times. These are necessary due to the extreme large numbers of visitors to these areas.</p> <p>Task #3: A FOJ Map #8 is being proposed to replenish our stock, but will also reflect the changes that have occurred since its last printing, to include fenced in areas.</p>		

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009  
 Agency: Friends of Jawbone  
 Application: Ground Operations - Trail Maintenance/Annual Sustainment

6/2/2009

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
<b>DIRECT EXPENSES</b>							
<b>Program Expenses</b>							
<b>1</b>	<b>Staff</b>						
	Heavy Equipment Operator Notes : Provides for a full time paid operator @ 2,081 hours per year.  Provides for a half time paid operator @ 1,040 hours per year.  The balance of 1,040 hours per year will consist of FOJ Volunteers.  Provides personal for day-to-day trail maintenance five days per week all year long, to repair water/rut damage controls, keeping unauthorized trails closed within the project area, and removing whooped road bed problems.	4161.000	33.580	HRS	119,727.00	20,000.00	139,727.00
	Other-Project Coordinator Notes : This person will be oversee most of the day-to-day activities associated with the project physical work, and provide accurate recorded input to the Grant administrator on status of that work in progress.  They will perform routine road/trail route inspections weekly and report conditions and provide recommendations to plan for repairs at a later date or determine if repairs etc are needed quickly.	680.000	40.000	HRS	0.00	27,200.00	27,200.00
	Other-Archeogist	160.000	45.000	HRS	0.00	7,200.00	7,200.00
	Other-Recreation Planner	586.000	30.000	HRS	0.00	17,580.00	17,580.00
	<b>Total for Staff</b>				119,727.00	71,980.00	191,707.00

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	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
<b>2</b>	<b>Contracts</b>						
	Portable Restroom Rentals Notes : Provides for 2 standard toilets and one handicap accessible units with a wash station (1 set).  We plan to have 1 set in the project area (Rands Open Area) for at least 5 of the major holiday weekends for a three day period each holiday.  One set is approximately \$250.00 for a 3 day period, which includes drop off/pickup, times 5 holiday weekeds.	5.000	250.000	EA	600.00	650.00	1,250.00
<b>3</b>	<b>Materials / Supplies</b>						
	Other-Trail Marker/Decals	1400.000	12.200	EA	17,080.00	0.00	17,080.00
	Other-Brown Posts	1400.000	13.850	EA	19,390.00	0.00	19,390.00
	Trash Bags	2000.000	0.100	EA	200.00	0.00	200.00
	Other-General Office Supplies Notes : These are overall office support costs for pens, pencils, note books, message pads, copy paper, toner cartriges for the printer, misc maintenance repairs for the copier (service calls), entry door matts, bathroom and office cleaner materials etc.	1.000	6500.000	MISC	3,500.00	3,000.00	6,500.00
	<b>Total for Materials / Supplies</b>				40,170.00	3,000.00	43,170.00
<b>4</b>	<b>Equipment Use Expenses</b>						
	Other-Tractor Scoop Tangs Notes : Due to the type of sand/soil in the dessert, the tangs that are attached to the front tractor scoop-bucket, are wearing very quickly, and with the amount of work to be done, these will wear out and need replacements more often.	8.000	125.000	EA	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00

Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
<p>Other-Scaper Blade Replacements</p> <p>Notes : The rear tractor scrapper box, is also subject to extreme wear problems with our soil composition; therefore will need replacing more often during our project period.</p>	3.000	400.000	EA	1,200.00	0.00	1,200.00
<p>Other-Auger Starter Bits</p> <p>Notes : These items wear very quickly based on the frequency of use and the type of soils they are used in, we have history of the use and damages, and determined that the number of replacements are appropriate for the heavy use intended.</p> <p>As the name states, it is the first item of the unit to make contact with the ground therefore excessive wear.</p> <p>The correct replacement cycles will reduce the added stress on the rest of the machine, i.e. vibrations, more force to start the dig process, and mechanical stress used to force auger into the ground.</p>	3.000	60.000	EA	180.00	0.00	180.00
<p>Other-Diesel Fuel/Gallons</p> <p>Notes : Cost covers the daily operations of up to 5 heavy equipment pieces, grader, water truck, tractor etc. (all diesel fuel)</p> <p>The equipment average fuel consumption is 25-27 gals per day, this also includes drive time to sites, time operating on site and return to station.</p>	11280.00 0	3.200	MISC	32,096.00	4,000.00	36,096.00
<p>Other-All Equipment General Maintenance</p> <p>Notes : There are 5 heavy duty machines and 2 general use vehicles requiring varied levels of required routine maintenance.</p> <p>These costs cover oil changes, filters, replacement of hoses, tires, tune ups and most incidental repairs as a result of being used in</p>	1.000	12000.000	MISC	12,000.00	0.00	12,000.00

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	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
	such austere conditions. Tires are very costly for the heavy equipment and wear out quickly in our environment, also driving costs through the roof.						
	Other-4"x6' Auger Assy. Notes : Cost provides for 3 each complete auger assemblies.	3.000	750.000	EA	0.00	2,250.00	2,250.00
	<b>Total for Equipment Use Expenses</b>				46,476.00	6,250.00	52,726.00
<b>5</b>	<b>Equipment Purchases</b>						
	Other-F350 Truck Notes : One, F350 Series (Brand not established, but Buy American only) 1 Ton pickup truck, to be used as primary post/signage installation vehicle with a on bed mounted, hydraulic operated post hole mechanism, hyd pump, protable engine and auger.	1.000	38700.000	EA	38,700.00	0.00	38,700.00
	Other-Post Hole System/Auger Notes : This is a packaged unit consisting of a Honda x HP gas engine, one 3000 psi hydraulic pump, mechanically actuated arm/mount with attached 3-6" auger.  The design for this system is such that it can be mounted on a 1 ton or larger standard truck and be removed as needed to allow the truck to be used for other purposes that require use of the flat bed or the pick truck side wall style bed.	1.000	29000.000	EA	29,000.00	0.00	29,000.00
	<b>Total for Equipment Purchases</b>				67,700.00	0.00	67,700.00
<b>6</b>	<b>Others</b>						
	Other-Motor/Pump/mechanical Auger System Notes : This is a one time cost to install the post hole drill system to the truck chassis/frame. This is not done by the manufacturer of the truck, nor by the producer of the post hole dig system.	1.000	1650.000	EA	1,650.00	0.00	1,650.00

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Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
<p>This system will have the capability to be removed from one truck and mounted in another with minimal efforts.</p> <p>This easily transportable system eliminates the need to haul a trailer and other digger equipment around as well as allowing for a one person operation.</p>						
Printing Notes : This covers hand outs for multiple events that occur during the year. Parades, special announcements, fliers for the general public etc.	4000.000	0.320	EA	1,280.00	0.00	1,280.00
Other-Internet services Notes : Provides for one year of internet services.  This cost is a part of annual sustainment and should not be part of our small fees collected for the sales of maps, or other FOJ merchandise. Those funds go to support other local activities and our volunteers.	12.000	50.000	MOS	600.00	0.00	600.00
<b>Total for Others</b>				3,530.00	0.00	3,530.00
<b>7 Administrative Costs</b>						
Administrative Costs-General Admin. Cost	1.000	15820.000	YR	0.00	15,820.00	15,820.00
Administrative Costs-Grant Administrator	1.000	12000.000	YR	12,000.00	0.00	12,000.00
<b>Total for Administrative Costs</b>				12,000.00	15,820.00	27,820.00
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>				290,203.00	97,700.00	387,903.00
<b>TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES</b>				290,203.00	97,700.00	387,903.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>				<b>290,203.00</b>	<b>97,700.00</b>	<b>387,903.00</b>

Project Cost Summary for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009  
 Agency: Friends of Jawbone  
 Application: Ground Operations - Trail Maintenance/Annual Sustainment

6/2/2009

	Line Item	Grant Request	Match	Total	Narrative
<b>DIRECT EXPENSES</b>					
<b>Program Expenses</b>					
1	Staff	119,727.00	71,980.00	191,707.00	
2	Contracts	600.00	650.00	1,250.00	
3	Materials / Supplies	40,170.00	3,000.00	43,170.00	
4	Equipment Use Expenses	46,476.00	6,250.00	52,726.00	
5	Equipment Purchases	67,700.00	0.00	67,700.00	
6	Others	3,530.00	0.00	3,530.00	
7	Administrative Costs	12,000.00	15,820.00	27,820.00	
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>		<b>290,203.00</b>	<b>97,700.00</b>	<b>387,903.00</b>	
<b>TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES</b>		<b>290,203.00</b>	<b>97,700.00</b>	<b>387,903.00</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>290,203.00</b>	<b>97,700.00</b>	<b>387,903.00</b>	

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**ITEM 1 and ITEM 2**

**ITEM 1**

- a. ITEM 1 - Has a CEQA Notice of Determination (NOD) been filed for the Project?  Yes  No  
(Please select Yes or No)

**ITEM 2**

- b. ITEM 2 - Are the proposed activities a "Project" under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378?  Yes  No  
(Please select Yes or No)
- c. The Application is requesting funds solely for personnel and support to enforce OHV laws and ensure public safety. These activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA.  Yes  No  
(Please select Yes or No)
- d. Other. Explain why proposed activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. DO NOT complete ITEMS 3 – 9

**ITEM 3 - Impact of this Project on Wetlands**

The Ground Operations project proposes no task that would result in negative impacts to wetlands, navigable waters, or sensitive habitats and species. There are no wetlands or navigable waters found in the project area. Main operations that will be performed from funding requested with this grant include restoring trail tread, maintaining information kiosks, producing interpretive materials, installing regulatory and route signs, and maintaining management area fence lines along with barriers to prevent damage to sensitive areas and areas off limits to motorized vehicles. This project proposal is to continue implementing the California Desert Conservation Area Plan (1980), as amended, West Mojave Plan (2006), Jawbone-Butterbret Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) Plan (1982) and the Rand Mountains/Fremont Valley Management Plan (Rand Plan) (1993). The goal of the California Desert Conservation Area Plan (CDCA) is to provide for the use of the public lands and resources in the region including economic, educational, scientific, and recreational uses, in a manner which enhances whenever possible and which does not diminish on balance the environmental, cultural, and aesthetic values of the desert. The West Mojave Plan is a habitat conservation plan and an amendment to the CDCA plan that presents a comprehensive strategy to conserve and protect the desert tortoise, the Mohave ground squirrel and over 100 other sensitive plants and animals and the natural communities of which they are part of. Each of these plans outlines numerous management actions to reach these goals. One primary action that is common to all of these plans is to implement a designated route system. The route networks are designed to provide access throughout the management areas while protecting the natural resources found in each area. The designated route systems provide interesting recreational opportunities including loop trips and point-to-point travel on existing routes while eliminating many redundant routes. Each of these designated route systems are to be signed and maintained, resulting in the protection of the sensitive habitats and natural resources of these areas, while the closed routes are to be restored and re-vegetated to the extent possible. Through the implementation of these plans and their respective route systems, critical habitats and threatened species will be protected. These actions are designed to and should result in having positive effects on aquatic resources, wildlife habitats, cultural and natural resources.

All of these new undertakings, like the previous installations, will be performed following the environmental protection measures identified within the BLM Ridgecrest Resource Area – Wide Maintenance & Surface Restoration Environmental Assessment – NEPA 96-70 and in accordance with the goals of the West Mojave Plan, Jawbone ACEC Plan, and Rand Mountain Fremont Valley Management Plan.

The FOJ will plan and coordinate all of its efforts with the BLM Ridgecrest FO prior to accomplishing any ground disturbing activities/maintenance.

**ITEM 4 - Cumulative Impacts of this Project**

This project will not add to or increase the level of cumulative effects to the environments in the project areas since this project is to continue the implementation efforts of the West Mojave plan and location specific plans within the Ridgecrest Resource Area. For a discussion of the cumulative effects for each of these management plans refer to each individual plan:

Refer to section 4.2.7 Cumulative Impacts (pages 4-135 thru 4-141) of the West Mojave Plan.

Refer to section VII Cumulative Impacts (pages 102-103) of the Rand Plan.

Refer to section XII Environmental Assessment of the Jawbone-Butterbret ACEC

Additionally, maintenance efforts are conducted following the guidelines and conditions of the Ridgecrest Resource Area-Wide Maintenance & Surface Restoration Environmental Assessment NEPA96-70 and in compliance with the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Biological Opinion for the aforementioned environmental assessment to further decrease any potential for cumulative effects.

Some of the guidelines and conditions that must be present to use heavy equipment and perform on-the ground actions are as follows:

1. The operator should minimize lowering of the roadbed when grading to avoid building up tall berms that may inhibit movement of desert tortoises. Berms higher than twelve inches and/or with a slope greater than 30 degrees will inhibit desert tortoise movements and should be pulled back into the roadbed.
2. The project inspector or on-site monitor shall inspect water ditches for desert tortoise burrows before moving/ shoveling any soil. If a desert tortoise burrow is present, the water ditch shall be left undisturbed if possible.
3. Road maintenance, particularly grading, will be scheduled to coincide with periods of maximum soil moisture, to maximize compaction of disturbed soils to minimize dust.
4. Any new road construction or existing road maintenance will use crowning, ditching, out-sloping, in-sloping, barrow ditches, drainage dips, low-water crossings, culverts, or lead-out ditches to control erosion and resource degradation...

A complete listing of these guidelines and conditions can be found in the above mentioned environmental assessment and biological opinion.

#### **ITEM 5 - Soil Impacts**

Sites with a slope exceeding 30 percent that are mechanically ripped will have rock or bale water bars, check dams, or geotextile netting installed to prevent accelerated erosion.

Through the implementation of proposed trail maintenance activities in compliance with the guidelines contained in the Ridgecrest Resource Area-Wide Maintenance & Surface Restoration Environmental Assessment NEPA96-70 and the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Biological Opinion for the above-mentioned environmental assessment, no significant effect on the environment should occur. In reality, the reshaping and repairing of drainage structures and trail tread should reverse as well as prevent damage from occurring on steep slopes and erosive soils. Distribution of interpretive materials along with signing and barriers will actually result in having a positive effect on the natural environments. Through these management actions and education efforts the visitor will improve their understanding of the ongoing management actions to protect natural resources which hopefully will foster support for and actions of responsible use that will assist in achieving these goals. Additionally, the human environment will improve with improved route conditions and the removal of possible safety hazards created from such dangerous features as washouts or excessively rough trails.

Some of these type of repairs may go beyond FOJ capabilities, however, if this work is required, we will coordinate with the BLM and ask for assistance to complete these actions.

#### **ITEM 6 - Damage to Scenic Resources**

There are no highways designated as state scenic highways within the view sheds of the proposed project area.

Therefore, the implementation of these management plans shall have no affect on scenic resources associated with a designated state scenic highway.

**ITEM 7 - Hazardous Materials**

Is the proposed Project Area located on a site included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code (hazardous materials)? (Please select Yes or No)  Yes  No

If YES, describe the location of the hazard relative to the Project site, the level of hazard and the measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the hazards.

**ITEM 8 - Potential for Adverse Impacts to Historical or Cultural Resources**

Would the proposed Project have potential for any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources? (Please select Yes or No)  Yes  No

If YES, describe the potential impacts and for any substantially adverse changes in the significance of historical or cultural resources and measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the impacts.

**ITEM 9 - Indirect Significant Impacts**

We do not foresee that this project will result in significant impacts off-site, displace users groups making them go elsewhere, or result in increasing use in the vicinity to a significant level. Through our scheduled maintenance plan we should be able to both protect the natural environment on and off site, as well as provide a quality recreational experience to all levels of users in the region. By providing the user with a well maintained trail system users should want to stay on the routes instead of going off route and potentially exposing themselves to unknown and possible dangerous conditions. The overall goal of this project is to provide a quality recreational experience that does not adversely affect the natural environment or cause off site impacts. In addition, by providing the public with quality informational materials, we should be able to solicit support and actions of the public to prevent significant impacts from occurring both onsite and off-site.

**CEQA/NEPA Attachment**

Attachments:

[NEPA #DOI-BLM-CA-D05000-2009-065 Plan  
Resource Area-Wide Mx & Surface Restoration NEPA 96-70](#)

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**1. Project Cost Estimate - Q 1. (Auto populates from Cost Estimate)**

1. As calculated on the Project Cost Estimate, the percentage of the cost of the Project covered by the Applicant is 0

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- 76% or more (10 points)  
 51% - 75% (5 points)  
 26% - 50% (3 points)  
 25% (Match minimum) (No points)

**2. Failure to Complete - Q 2.**

2. Failure to complete the Project would result in: 8

(Check all that apply) : Maximum of 8 points (Please select applicable values)

- Loss of OHV Opportunity (6 points)  
 Negative impact to cultural sites (2 points)  
 Damage to special-status species or other sensitive habitat (2 points)  
 Potential trespass (2 points)  
 Additional damage to Facilities (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

Loss of OHV opportunities will happen as a result of trails being degraded to the point of not usable or very dangerous due to water erosion and or trails will become very wide (damaging the undergrowth/plants that now line the trails) in many places due to people avoiding the whoops, large/deep puddles of drainage water, and just plain poor conditions.

Without the proper general trail maintenance/monitoring and replacements of signage, trespassing is not a risk, it will occur on a regular/frequent basis, resulting in more determination by private owners to stop this recreation all together.

**3. Sustain OHV Opportunity - Q 3.**

3. The Project would sustain OHV Opportunity by 13

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- Maintaining trail or road tread (5 points)  
 Installing or repairing erosion control features (3 points)  
 Providing traffic control and/or educational signage (3 points)  
 Maintaining multi use (ATV, Dirt Bikes, 4x4, etc) (1 point)  
 Providing varied levels of riding difficulty (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

Our routine maintenance plan will assure that all trails will maintain proper road tread and maximize traffic safety along the project area.

Using the Land Managers guidance/procedures, our maintenance program will keep up with all erosion problem areas. This will prevent loss of trails when weather conditions have limited or closed trails due to water erosion.

The project area maintenance program will be using all necessary informational signage that will always alert, inform and offer basic emergency operations training and strict policy information applicable to the project area.

While the project area caters to a host of different types of OHV enthusiasts, unique care/consideration will be given to those trails most suitable for ATV, Dirt Bikes, 4x4, etc.

FOJ has developed a Map series that identifies all legal trails, level of difficulty, and which type of OHV activity that trail will be suited for. This project area does provide for varied levels of riding difficulties.

**4. Public Input - Q 4.**

4. The Project was developed with public input employing the following 2

(Check all that apply) : Maximum of 2 points (Please select applicable values)

- Meeting(s) with the general public to discuss Project (1 point)  
 Conference call(s) with interested parties (1 point)  
 Meeting(s) with stakeholders (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

The topic of continued trail/route maintenance has routinely been discussed as a problem area and that actions need to be taken more aggressively.

Feed back from these meetings have brought about the need to accomplish this type of project.

The subject meetings are a monthly event (Board of Directors & public) at the FOJ Station, they occur on the third Wednesday of every month to discuss all aspects concerning the OHV community and to hear local input on this topic.

**5. Utilization of Partnerships - Q 5.**

5. The Project will utilize partnerships to successfully accomplish the Project. The number of partner organizations that will participate in the Project are 4

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- 4 or more (4 points)  2 to 3 (2 points)  
 1 (1 point)  None (No points)

List partner organization(s):

Bureau of Land Management (Ridgecrest Field Office) Kern County parks and Recreation, Private Property Owners Kern County Sherriff, California City Police, Rands Improvement Association

**6. Impact to Natural and Cultural Resources - Q 6.**

6. The Project will avoid and/or minimize impact to natural and cultural resources by 6

(Check all that apply) : Maximum of 7 points (Please select applicable values)

- Maintaining physical barriers to control OHV use (1 point)  
 Protecting water quality (1 point)  
 Providing bridges instead of wet crossings where appropriate (1 point)  
 Protecting special-status species (1 point)

- Re-routing trails to divert away from riparian/wetlands areas (1 point)
- Providing sanitary facilities (1 point)
- Protecting cultural site(s) (1 point)
- Site design precludes the need for the above measures (7 points)

Explain each statement that was checked

It is one of our primary program goals to provide recreational opportunities while protecting and avoiding impacts to cultural and natural resources. To achieve this goal we maintain physical barriers, such as fences in sensitive areas to control OHV encroachment and impacts. We provide trash dumpsters and 1000 gallon vaulted sanitary toilet facilities to reduce waste. All aspects of routine route maintenance include the installation or maintenance of existing erosion control features to prevent and eliminate the effects of erosion and degradation to all natural, cultural, and historic resources. BLM policy requires NEPA documentation and inventory for all surface disturbance projects prior to commencement of any such projects. If it is determined that a riparian area is not being adequately protected from OHV damage, then alternatives such as bridges instead of wet crossings will be considered with approval of BLM staff.

**7. Recycled Materials - Q 7.**

7. The Project incorporates recycled materials by utilizing 4

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- Barrier materials which include recycled content or materials obtained onsite (1 point)
- Signs, sign posts or education kiosks which use products with recycled content (1 point)
- Erosion control features which use materials with recycled content (1 point)
- Paper used for trail maps which includes recycled content (1 point)
- Other products with recycled content (Specify) (1 point)

**8. Sustainable Technologies - Q 8.**

8. The Project makes substantial use of sustainable technologies such as 4

- Alternative fuel vehicles and equipment
- Renewable energy sources (e.g., solar, wind)
- Low volatile organic compound emission materials (e.g., paint, sealants, carpet)
- Low flow plumbing fixtures
- Water efficient landscaping

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- No (No points)  Yes (4 points)

Explain 'Yes' response

In our Jawbone and Dove Springs Open Areas we have vaulted toilets that are considered extremely low flow and only use 500 gallons of water per year.

**9. Motorized Access - Q 9.**

9. The Project improves and/or maintains facilities that provide motorized access to the following non-motorized recreation opportunities 6

(Check all that apply) Scoring: 2 points each, up to a maximum of 6 points (Please select applicable values)

- Camping
- Birding
- Hiking
- Equestrian trails
- Fishing
- Rock Climbing

Other (Specify)